

WHAT I CLAIM IS:

1. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform, said platform having an inner and an outer edge and including a number of bail sections, the number being equal to the number of bails on the platform, and the dimensions of each bail section being determined from the width of the platform, the number of bails and the length of the centre^{or} line; said method including the steps of:

constructing an adequate foundation to take and support the weight of the platform and the dead and live loads to be applied thereon (when completed);

- erecting a curved, flanged metal support beam which is positioned along the centre^{or} line of the intended position of the platform and elevated to the pre-determined height to ensure the required elevation of the platform, the top of said beam having an inward and an outward flange or flanged edge;

preparing the bail sections, each bail section having an inner and an outer edge, and two radial sides, each bail section including:

a side support means which is positioned along one radial side of the bail section and which is secured to the metal support beam; said means being positioned such that the side support means of one bail section is engageable with an immediately adjacent bail section;

a panel of pre-cast material, which includes an inner edge of the same radius as that of the inner edge of the platform, an outer edge that is the same radius as the outer edge of the platform, and two straight sides that are the same length as the length of the side support means; the panel being positioned over the said support beam, and between the inner and outer edges of the platform and between the side support means of the bail section and the support means of the adjacent bail section;

locating an upright edging around each of the inner and outer edges of said platform, and securing each said edging to the respective ends of the side support

means, thereby providing a mould into which the material of the platform can be poured;

positioning and securing within the mould the required reinforcing material;

positioning and securing within the mould the required blanks, sleeves and packing for cut-outs and channels to be formed in the finished platform; and

a ^{*filling*}
~~filling~~ the mould with filler material and allowing it to set and/or cure; wherein said filler material and said pre-cast material bond together to form a single structural layer.

2. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 1 wherein each side support means includes two lengths of angle iron, one on each side of the straight side of the respective bail section, the dimension of each length being the same as the dimension of the radial side of a bail section.

3. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 1 wherein one part of each of the side support means of adjacent bail sections are combined, the two adjacent lengths of angle iron being secured together with an upright plate welded therebetween and along the length of the bail section.

4. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 1 wherein a spacer forms part of the support beam and is positioned on top thereof, the ^{or} spacer extending around the length of the centre line and being, in cross-section, a solid rectangle.

5. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 1 wherein an end plate is secured to each of the ends of the side support means, and which end plate is secured to the respective inner or outer edging.

6. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3 wherein an end plate is secured to each of the ends of the side support means, and which end plate is secured to the respective inner or outer edging.

7. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 1 wherein each side support means includes:

a section of flat bar which, in length, is less than or equal to the width of the platform, each bar being positioned on one radial side of the bail section;

a shear connector plate which is positioned in a vertical orientation along the one radial side of the bail section and connected to the respective bar;

a panel support bar which is positioned along the one radial side below the shear connector plate and, in cross-section, extending either side of the shear connector plate.

8. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 7 wherein the shear connector plates, panel support bars and flat bars are constructed from iron or steel.

9. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 1 wherein each panel comprises an inner and an outer panel, the inner panel having a inner edge of the same radius as that of the inner edge of the platform and an outer edge dimensioned to rest on the flanged top of the said support beam, and two straight sides that are half the length of the side support; the inner panel being positioned on the two side supports and the said support beam, and between the inner edge of the platform and the said support beam; the outer panel having an inner edge dimensioned to rest on the flanged top of the said support beam, an outer edge that is of the same radius as the outer edge of the platform, and two straight sides that are half the length of the side support and the outer panel being secured between the two side supports and the said support beam, and positioned between the inner edge of the platform and the said support beam.

10. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 7 wherein each panel comprises an inner and an outer panel, the inner panel having a inner edge of the same radius as that of the inner edge of the platform and an outer edge dimensioned to rest on the flanged top of the said support beam, and two straight sides that are half the length of the side support; the inner panel being positioned on the two side supports and the said support beam, and between the inner edge of the platform and the said support beam; the outer panel having an inner edge dimensioned to rest on the flanged top of the said support beam, an outer edge that is of the same radius as the outer edge of the platform, and two straight sides that are half the length of the side support and the outer panel being secured between the two side supports and the said support beam, and positioned between the inner edge of the platform and the said support beam.

11. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 1 wherein each panel is made from a material selected from: concrete, concrete fibre^{or}; other rigid fibrous material, and a combination thereof.

Sub
a² → 12. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in either claim 7 or claim 10 wherein each panel is made from a material selected from: concrete, concrete fibre; other rigid fibrous material, and a combination thereof.

13. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim

1 wherein the method further includes the final step of removing the upright edgings.

14. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 1 wherein the filler material bonds to the material of the panels irreversibly.

15. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 14 wherein said filler material is selected from the group: concrete, natural rubber, synthetic rubber; plastics materials; or a compound comprising a combination of these materials.

16. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 1 wherein after the step of constructing the foundation, said method further includes the step of incorporating means to rotate the platform, said motive means being positioned between the foundation and the mould formed of the plurality of bail sections.

17. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim

7 wherein after the step of constructing the foundation, said method further includes the step of incorporating means to rotate the platform, said motive means being positioned between the foundation and the mould formed of the plurality of bail sections.

18. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 16 wherein said flanged metal support beam forms part of the motive means assembly.

19. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of filling the mould with filler material is carried out over a period of time such that one or more portions of the mould are filled and allowed to set before adjacent sections are filled, the modified step being continued until all the mould is filled and the annulus set and cured.

20. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 1 wherein said blanks, sleeves and packing and the corresponding spaces, in the mould and panels thereof, are all positioned on the edges of the straight sides of each bail section.

21. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 7 wherein said blanks, sleeves and packing and the corresponding spaces, in the mould and panels thereof, are all positioned on the edges of the straight sides of each bail section.

22. A method of construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 17 wherein said blanks, sleeves and packing and the corresponding spaces, in the mould and panels thereof, are all positioned on the edges of the straight sides of each bail section.

23. An annular elevated platform constructed by the method of claim 1.

24. An annular elevated platform constructed by the method of claim 7.

25. An annular elevated platform constructed by the method of claim 22.

26. A kit^{of} parts for the construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 23, said kit including: a plurality of ~~the~~ elements for construction of a plurality of bail sections to form a mould for said platform, said elements including the following:

a plurality of side support means each of which is to be positioned along a radial side of a bail section and secured at the midpoint to the flanged support beam;

a panel of pre-cast material, each said panel having an inner edge of the same radius as that of the inner edge of the platform, an outer edge that is the same radius as the outer edge of the platform, and two straight sides that are the same length as the length of the side support means; each panel being positioned between the two side supports and the said support beam, and between the inner and outer edges of the platform;

the upright inner and outer edgings; and

the curved, flanged metal support beam;

wherein said elements are crated or packed to ^{maximize}~~maximize~~ the use of available space in a crate or container for shipping to the site of the construction of the platform.

27. A kit^{of} parts for the construction of an elevated annular platform as claimed in claim 26 wherein the elements of iron or steel are weather-sealed prior to packing the said kit of parts, said sealing being selected from: galvanising, hot dipping, painting, or a combination thereof.